

MEDIA RELEASE

4th November 2011

NEW TRAINING CAFÉ TO BE LAUNCHED IN WESTERN SYDNEY

A new training centre in Mount Druitt will be crucial in addressing disadvantage in Western Sydney, Jesuit Social Services CEO, Julie Edwards, has said following the announcement it has won the tender to expand on its existing award-winning training and employment program.

Julie Edwards said the training café, to open on November 19 2011, will become a living classroom providing accredited hospitality training and work experience while creating a vibrant, dynamic social space in the very heart of Mount Druitt.

“Jesuit Social Services is very pleased to have been given this opportunity by the Blacktown City Council to launch the training café which will create genuine training and employment opportunities for local residents.

“With a thorough understanding of, and engagement with, the local community, Jesuit Social Services and Mount Druitt College of TAFE Western Sydney Institute will provide training in Certificate II in Hospitality Operations using the same innovative teaching methods utilised at ‘The Store’ at Emerton, where the partners provide Retail Certificate II training.

Ms Edwards said Jesuit Social Services’ ‘The Store’ in Emerton - awarded the School for Social Entrepreneurs’ ‘Project Achievement Award’ in 2010 - is an example of the organisation’s innovative approach to addressing entrenched disadvantage and social vulnerability and provided proof that the new training café will benefit the community.

“Established with the aid of an Australian Government grant in excess of \$1.1 million and operated in partnership with the community, the hub features a food store, café and op-shop. The Store has created a lively meeting place where community members can access affordable food and clothing as well as a series of new training, work experience and employment opportunities.

“Operating in Mount Druitt for several years from its Emerton base, Jesuit Social Services has created a significant network of government, non-government, commercial and community partners in the development of its Mount Druitt programs,” Ms Edwards said.

Jesuit Social Services works to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential by partnering with community to support those most in need and working to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

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